

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF KEN "RAY" SMITH

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and acknowledge the many accomplishments of Ken "Ray" Smith, who was recognized by the Richard A. Rutkowski Association at a gala on Saturday, January 19, 2002. The event took place at Hi-Hat Caterers in Bayonne, New Jersey.

After spending three years as a Guided Missile Technician in the United States Army, Mr. Smith was in charge of negotiations, administration and investment of funds as union Secretary-Treasurer for Dorchester, Inc. For the past eleven years, he has worked for the Bayonne Board of Education and the Bayonne Department of Parks and Recreation. He was also president of the School Employee's Local 2251 for four years.

As the founder and leader of Bayonne Friends of the Handicapped, Smith worked on behalf of disabled people and was honored with the prestigious Al Slootsky Award.

He made meaningful contributions through a variety of organizations known for their services to the community, including the Bayonne Elks Club; Ireland's 32; The Bayonne Writer's Club; and the Richard A. Rutkowski Association.

A Bayonne native, Ken "Ray" Smith graduated from Horace Mann High School, and attended New Jersey City University.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ken "Ray" Smith for his countless contributions on behalf of our community and disabled individuals throughout our country.

2001 GILROY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CITIZEN AND BUSINESS AWARDEES

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2002

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today we rise to recognize the recipients of the 2001 Gilroy Chamber of Commerce Citizen and Business Awards. The six individuals and businesses being honored on February 8 have contributed their time and talent to the city and the people of Gilroy, California. We wish to express to them our gratitude for their hard work and our congratulations for this honor. The 2001 Gilroy Chamber of Commerce Citizen and Business Awardees are:

Michael Bonfante, the 2001 Man of the Year. As owner of Nob Hill Stores, Mr. Bonfante was extremely supportive of Gilroy schools, clubs, sports groups and community organizations. It was said that he could never

say "no" to any group asking for help. Students working in his stores knew that their managers would be sensitive to the pressures of school and activities; a corporate retreat on Hecker Pass made game fields, picnic areas, and a gym available to all employees. After the sale of the Nob Hill Foods chain, Michael Bonfante invested \$79 million into his dream of creating a family park designed around trees, which ultimately became the basis for a non-profit organization benefiting the Gilroy community.

Susan Starritt Jacobsen, the 2001 Woman of the Year. Ms. Jacobsen has been active in Gilroy for over 25 years and on so many levels it is difficult to list them all. She was the 2000–2001 Gilroy EDC President and served as the Secretary-Treasury for three years. As the 1999–2000 Gilroy Chamber of Commerce President, she was serving her second term as Board Member of the Chamber. In a professional capacity, she is a Past President of the South County Board of Realtors and the Past State Director for the California Association of Realtors. For 20 years visitors have seen her at the Gilroy Garlic Festival, helping out in one way or another, and Gilroy schools and organizations know they can always count on her to volunteer her time for a fundraiser or event.

Aitken Associates, the 2001 Small Business of the Year. Aitken Associates is a local landscape design firm that has created beautiful and award-winning designs throughout Gilroy and other communities. Karen Aitken, the President, has been in private practice as a landscape architect for over 18 years. Among Aitken Associates' endeavors are: the public grounds at Goldsmith Seeds, Del Rey Park, and the Gilroy City Hall. One of Ms. Aitken's most notable projects is the Bonfante Gardens theme park, whose founder Michael Bonfante praises Ms. Aitken's devotion and creativity. Civic activity is one of Aitken Associates' founding principles; as such, the firm has donated its services to the Gilroy High School landscape improvement plan, the Willey House and the student gardens at the Morgan Hill Country School. Karen Aitken is active in the Rotary Club of Gilroy and the Beautification in Gilroy Committee.

McDonald's of Gilroy, the 2001 Large Business of the Year. McDonald's of Gilroy, purchased by Steve and Jan Peat just over five and a half years ago, has become an integral part of the Gilroy community and an example of civic excellence. The Peats are the recipients of the 1999–2000 McDonald's "Partners in Paradise" award for increased sales and the 1998 McDonald's Corporation "Best of the West" award for excellence at the Outlet location. The Peat's son, Steve, is one of only four people who teach McDonald's management classes in Spanish for the entire Northern California Region—a program he helped initiate. Among countless other activities, the Peats' assistance was vital in securing a \$5,000 grant from the Ronald McDonald Children's House Charities Foundation for Jordan School's "Music Alive" program, and a

\$25,000 grant for the recreation center at Rebekah Children's Services.

Frankie Munoz, the 2001 Firman B. Voorhies Volunteer of the Year. Because of her dedication to and support of the Gilroy Chamber of Commerce, Frankie Munoz was named the 2001 Volunteer of the Year. For many years, Ms. Munoz has served as a Chamber Ambassador, chairing the South Valley Business Showcase and Mixer, and co-chairing the Business After Hours with the Rotary Club of Gilroy. Frankie Munoz is the incoming president of Leadership Gilroy, and is also active in the Rotacare Administrative Council, the Gilroy Senior Center, the Morgan Hill Mushroom Mardi Gras, and various other charitable organizations. Ms. Munoz is a tireless volunteer for her children's schools, sports and 4-H clubs.

Betsy Henry, the 2001 Gilroy Educator of the Year. Betsy Henry is a first grade teacher at El Roble School in Gilroy. Along with first grade, Ms. Henry has taught Special Education classes, third grade, and second/third combination classes. She has organized several programs within her classroom including the Star of the Week program, the 100% Spelling Club, Just Read, and Peacebuilders of the Month. Her use of cooperative learning activities and Peacebuilder social norms within her classroom creates an atmosphere that promotes each individual child's belief in themselves. Additionally, Ms. Henry is the on-site trainer for "Success For All" reading program at El Roble School. She has served on Key Planners, as the PTA teacher representative, and School Site Council.

Again, we wish to extend our gratitude to these individuals and organizations for their tireless enthusiasm and dedication. Congratulations to them on this prestigious award.

IN HONOR OF AGNES M. GILLESPIE

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Friday, January 25, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and acknowledge the many accomplishments of Agnes M. Gillespie, who was recognized by the Richard A. Rutkowski Association on Saturday, January 19, 2002. The gala event took place at Hi-Hat Caterers in Bayonne, NJ.

In 1973, Agnes M. Gillespie began her career as an elementary school teacher in the Horace Mann and Walter F. Robinson Schools. In September 1987, she assumed the position of grant writer for the Bayonne Public School System. As a grant writer, she secured awards for Safe Haven, Project Fare, Project Rite, and Project Self-Sufficient. Not only did she write and promote the applications for grant programs, but Gillespie also served as the director and coordinator in the administration and implementation of many of these programs. Currently, Gillespie is the Director of Safe Haven, the New Jersey school-

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